

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT, no 03/28534

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61B18/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 589 555 A (EVEREST MEDICAL CORP) 30 March 1994 (1994-03-30) column 10, line 10 - line 47; figure 1	1-10
A	EP 1 177 771 A (OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO) 6 February 2002 (2002-02-06) paragraphs '0174!-'0176!; figures 1,30	1,9
A	US 6 106 542 A (GRINSSTEIN VICTOR AVIGDOR ET AL) 22 August 2000 (2000-08-22) column 6, line 43 - line 53; figure 1	1,9
A	US 2002/091385 A1 (FURMANOV ALEXANDR Y ET AL) 11 July 2002 (2002-07-11) paragraphs '0168!, '0169!; figure 16	1,5,6,9
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 December 2003

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Mayer-Martenson, E

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT. ... 03/28534

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 458 130 B1 (LUKIANOW WADE ET AL) 1 October 2002 (2002-10-01) abstract; figure 1	1,9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PC1/99 03/28534

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US2007/021438

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - A61B 18/14 (2008.01) USPC - 606/51 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC														
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT														
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.												
X — Y Y	US 2002/0188294 A1 (COUTURE et al) 12 December 2002 (12.12.2002) entire document US 2001/0018591 A1 (BROCK et al) 30 August 2001 (30.08.2001) entire document	1-4, 9-13 — 5-8, 14-17 5-8, 14-17												
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/>														
<table border="0"><tr><td>* Special categories of cited documents:</td><td>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td></tr><tr><td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td><td>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td></tr><tr><td>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td><td>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td></tr><tr><td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td><td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td></tr><tr><td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td><td></td></tr></table>			* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 25 January 2008		Date of mailing of the international search report 01 APR 2008												
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents. P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201		Authorized officer: Blaine R. Copenheaver PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774												

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(74) Agents: **WEBBER, Donald, L. et al.**; Covidien, 60 Middletown Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

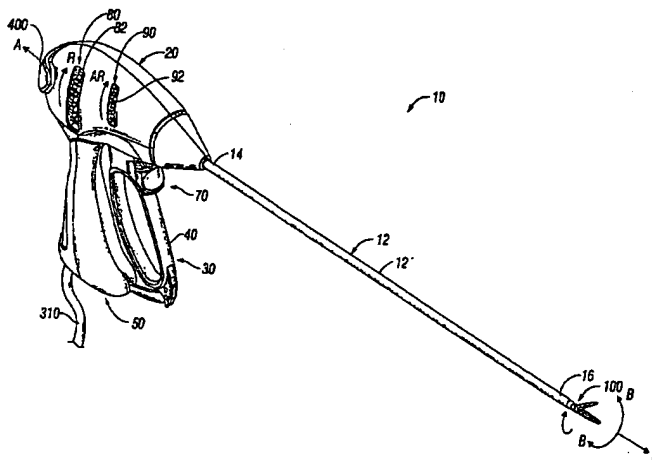
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: **ENDOSCOPIC VESSEL SEALER AND DIVIDER HAVING A FLEXIBLE ARTICULATING SHAFT**



(57) Abstract: An electrosurgical instrument for treating tissue includes a housing having a flexible shaft extending therefrom having an axis A-A defined therethrough. The flexible shaft has first and second jaw members attached at a distal end thereof and each jaw member includes an electrically conductive tissue contacting surface adapted to connect to a source of electrosurgical energy. A drive assembly is disposed in the housing and has a first actuator operably coupled to a drive rod for reciprocation thereof and a second actuator operably coupled to the drive rod for rotation thereof. A knife is operably coupled to a distal end of the drive rod. Actuation of the first actuator moves the jaw members relative to one another for engaging tissue and actuation of the second actuator rotates the drive rod about the axis A-A to translate the knife to cut tissue disposed between the jaw members.

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Patbase, Google Scholar

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Y		2-7, 10-12
Y	US 2001/0018591 A1 (BROCK et al) 30 August 2001 (30.08.2001) entire document	2-4, 6, 7, 10-12.
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European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL,
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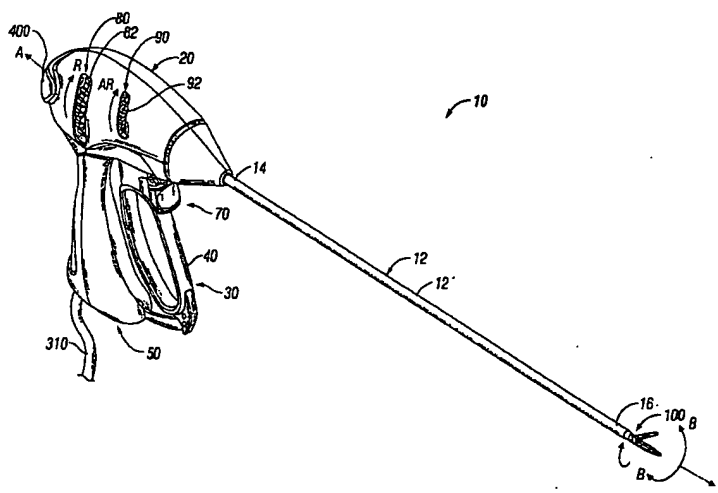
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